



Attorney Docket 040447-0231

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masaki ICHIHARA
Title: REWARDING METHOD CORRESPONDING TO OBJECT SELECTION ON
WEB PAGE AND SERVER FOR USE WITH REWARDING METHOD

Appl. No.: 09/822,274

Filing Date: 04/02/2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: 2152

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

MAIL STOP NON-FEE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. However, if an Office Action has been mailed, the listed documents are being submitted thirty (30) days from receipt and in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97(c), within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign office action with the required statement under 1.97(e). Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A6-A10 were cited in a Chinese office action during prosecution of a counterpart Chinese application. Documents A6-A9 are in English. Document A10 is in Chinese but belongs to the same patent family as documents A6-A8.

Based on a translation of the Chinese office action, the Chinese Office Action cited document A10 for disclosing at page 4, line 28 to page 15, line 29, features corresponding to recording an event log correlating an identifier of the user, an identifier of the selected object, and an event that the object has been selected, when the server detects that the user of the user terminal unit has selected the object; determining whether or not the number of objects recorded in the event log exceeds a first predetermined value; and performing a rewarding process to reward the user when the first predetermined value is exceeded.

Applicant's statements regarding the Chinese office action are based on a translation that applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Chinese office action.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 10, 2003

By Aaron C. Chatterjee

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted: July 10, 2003

Use as many sheets as necessary)

1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/822,274
 Filing Date 04/02/2001
 First Named Inventor Masaki ICHIHARA
 Group Art Unit 2152
 Examiner Name Unknown
 Attorney Docket Number 040447-0231

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A6 | 5,761,647 | | BOUSHY | 06/02/1998 | |
| | A7 | 6,183,362 | B1 | BOUSHY | 02/06/2001 | |
| | A8 | 2002/0142841 | A1 | BOUSHY | 10/03/2002 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | A9 | WO | 99/03050 | | DAVIDSON et al. | 01/21/1999 | | |
| | A10 | CN | 1226982 | A | BOUSHY | 08/25/1999 | | |

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|
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Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.